

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 259126

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GT, BH, UK, USUN

SUBJECT: BELIZE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

REFERENCE: USUN 5464

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM BRITISH EMBASSY (DAVID WALKER) THAT SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL COURT CAME UP DURING HALF-HOUR PRIVATE PART OF MOLINA-RICHARD TALKS. WHILE THE TWO WERE ALONE RICHARD HAD SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE, BEYOND THE UN RESOLUTION AND TRY TO NEGOTIATE A WAY OUT FOR BOTH ENGLAND AND GUATEMALA. MOLINA AGREED BUT SAID THE GOG HAD TO HAVE SOME KIND OF QUOTE PACKAGE UNQUOTE, SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR RE-ENTERING NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FACE OF SO NEGATIVE A RESOLUTION. RICHARD HAD SUGGESTED TWO POSSIBILITIES. HE ASKED MOLINA IF THE GOG COULD ACCEPT A WORLD COURT DECISION. MOLINA REPLIED HE DID
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NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE THAT DECISION ON HIS

OWN. (NOTE: THE GUATEMALANS HAVE SAID PRIVATELY BEFORE THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT A WORLD COURT DECISION BASED ON LAW AND EQUITY. THE BRITISH HAD REFUSED, SAYING THEY WOULD ONLY CONSIDER A DECISION BASED ON LAW ALONE.)

2. RICHARD THEN ASKED IF A REFERENDUM WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. MOLINA SAID THE GOG COULD NOT ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF A REFERENDUM AS BINDING BECAUSE OF THEIR REJECTION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. HOWEVER, A HEAVY VOTE AGAINST ASSOCIATION WITH GUATEMALA COULD DO MUCH TO AFFECT PUBLIC OPINION AND COULD MAKE AN EVENTUAL, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT EASIER TO SELL.

3. WALKER ALSO MENTIONED THAT UK HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH OTHER LATIN NATIONS TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR THEIR BELIZE RESOLUTION. MOST HAVE REPLIED THEY WOULD HAVE TO SUPPORT GUATEMALAN RESOLUTION. SOME STATED THEIR HOPE THAT GOG RESOLUTION WOULD EVENTUALLY BE WITHDRAWN. IN THAT CASE, ACCORDING TO WALKER, SEVERAL LATIN COUNTRIES HAVE TOLD UK THEY COULD THEN SUPPORT AND EVEN VOTE IN FAVOR OF UK VERSION. KISSINGER

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